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PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

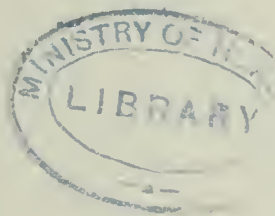
R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951



Officials:

Medical Officer of Health .. W.W.Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector .. G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1951

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual Report on the sanitary conditions and state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District for the year 1951.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and have included all subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION I. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical Summary for the Year

|                                    |  |                |               |                            |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Area                               | ...                                    | ...            | 31,414 acres. |                            |
| Population {Census 1931}           | ...                                    | ...            | 2,149         |                            |
| Population {Census 1951}           | ...                                    | ...            | 1,872         |                            |
| Number of inhabited houses         | ...                                    | ...            | 565           |                            |
|                                    | <u>Males</u>                           | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u>  | <u>Rate per 1,000 pop.</u> |
| Live births.                       |  |                |               |                            |
| Legitimate                         | 13                                     | 16             | 29            | 16.1                       |
| Illegitimate                       | 0                                      | 1              | 1             |                            |
|                                    | Birth rate for England and Wales       |                |               | 15.5                       |
| Still births                       | 0                                      | 0              | 0             | 0                          |
|                                    | Still birth rate for England and Wales |                |               | 0.36                       |
| Deaths                             | 9                                      | 16             | 25            | 13.4                       |
|                                    | Death rate for England and Wales       |                |               | 12.5                       |
| Maternal deaths                    | 0                                      | 0              | 0             | 0                          |
| Infant mortality                   | 1                                      | 1              | 2             | 66.6                       |
|                                    | England and Wales                      |                |               | 29.6.                      |
| Deaths from special causes:-       |  |                |               |                            |
| Infectious disease                 | ...                                    | ...            | Nil.          |                            |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system |  |                | 1.            |                            |
| Other tuberculosis disease         | ...                                    | ...            | Nil.          |                            |
| Cancer                             | ...                                    | ...            | 2.            |                            |

Area

The Rural District of Painscastle, which has an area of 31,414 acres forms part of the County of Radnor. The district is situated in the south east part of the county and is of an agricultural nature. There are no towns in the district.

|                   |                 |             |             |             |             |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Population</u> | Census 1931 ... | 2,149.      |             |             |             |
|                   | Census 1951 ... | 1,872.      |             |             |             |
|                   | <u>1947</u>     | <u>1948</u> | <u>1949</u> | <u>1950</u> | <u>1951</u> |
|                   | 1,750           | 1,872       | 1,908       | 1,884       | 1,856       |

The above yearly figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for midsummer of each year and apply only to the civilian population. The population was increasing up to 1949, but since then has steadily decreased. The 1951 census figures show a decrease of 277 on the census of 1931.

Inhabited houses

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 565 giving an average number of 3.28 persons per house.

| <u>Births</u>          |      | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|------------------------|------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1947                   | .... | 11           | 11             | 22           | 16.0        |
| 1948                   | .... | 14           | 17             | 31           | 16.5        |
| 1949                   | .... | 18           | 24             | 42           | 22.01       |
| 1950                   | .... | 18           | 9              | 27           | 14.3        |
| 1951                   | .... | 13           | 17             | 30           | 16.1        |
| England and Wales 1951 |      |              |                | ...          | 15.5        |

It will be observed that the birth rate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England & Wales.

Deaths After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the nett number of deaths registered amongst residents of the district is shown below:-

|                   |      | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|-------------------|------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1947              | .... | 7            | 6              | 13           | 12.0        |
| 1948              | .... | 9            | 9              | 18           | 9.6         |
| 1949              | .... | 11           | 12             | 23           | 12.05       |
| 1950              | .... | 17           | 6              | 23           | 12.2        |
| 1951              | .... | 9            | 16             | 25           | 13.4        |
| England and Wales |      |              |                | ...          | 12.5        |

The death rate for 1951 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but was less than the birth rate for the year.

| <u>Still Births</u> |     | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1947                | ... | 0            | 0              | 0            | 0           |
| 1948                | ... | 1            | 0              | 1            | 0.42        |
| 1949                | ... | 0            | 2              | 2            | 1.04        |
| 1950                | ... | 0            | 0              | 0            | 0           |
| 1951                | ... | 0            | 0              | 0            | 0           |
| England and Wales   |     |              |                | ...          | 0.36        |

The still birth rate was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

#### Infantile Mortality

This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1,000 live births.

|                   |     | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1947              | ... | 1            | 0              | 1            | 36.0        |
| 1948              | ... | 1            | 0              | 1            | 32.2        |
| 1949              | ... | 0            | 0              | 0            | 0           |
| 1950              | ... | 1            | 0              | 1            | 37.03       |
| 1951              | ... | 1            | 1              | 2            | 66.6        |
| England and Wales |     |              |                | ...          | 29.9        |

The infant mortality rate was more than double the average for the whole of England and Wales.

#### Analysis of Causes of Deaths      Males ... 9.      Females ... 16.

|                                    | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculosis                       | 1            | 0              |
| Neoplasm of stomach                | 0            | 0              |
| Other malignant neoplasms          | 0            | 2              |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 1            | 3              |
| Coronary disease                   | 0            | 1              |
| Other heart disease                | 2            | 1              |
| Other circulatory disease          | 1            | 2              |
| Pneumonia                          | 0            | 2              |
| Bronchitis                         | 1            | 0              |
| Congenital malformations           | 1            | 1              |
| Other causes                       | 2            | 4              |

Illegitimacy      There was one illegitimate birth during the year.

Maternal Mortality      There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.



## SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers There was no change in the public health officers during the year. Mr.G.G.Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the county at Hereford and Brecon, while any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. All milk sampling was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities As a result of the new National Health Service Act 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use, while ambulances from Merthyr Tydfil and Hereford Isolation Hospitals conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to Hospital.

Home Nursing Under the new Health Act the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by the various District Nursing Associations were whole time employees of the County Council, and District Nursing Associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council, the nearest is at Ilandrindod Wells, some 27 miles away. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

Hospitals The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases, apart from infectious disease, are provided for at Hereford Hospital. A few cases are admitted at Brecon and Ilandrindod Wells. For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Feaw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying, and current disinfection is advised.

## SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for expectant mothers; provision is also made for free and cheap milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

## SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and the workings of the Factories Act which are included in this section of the report. During the year a shortage of water was experienced in some of the low lying places and dwellings all above 500 feet again experienced most unsatisfactory conditions in the supply of water.

The scheme submitted by the Consulting Engineer in 1947 for the whole of the district showed some little advance but real progress is still very slow.

## WATER REPORT

### (a) Boughrood Parish

Twelve houses in the vicinity of Boughrood bridge draw water from the Llyswen Supply which is owned by the Hay Rural District Council. The remaining houses have private supplies. In times of drought the quantity is insufficient and the quality "suspicious". A scheme for improving the supply was put forward in 1950 and I am glad to report that this has now been carried out.

No progress has been made to the scheme known as the "Bostin" and I sincerely hope some progress will be made during 1953.

### (b) Bryngwyn Parish

The Council own one small water supply in this parish. The extension of the water mains to the hamlet of Rhosgoch was completed in early 1949. Apart from Rhosgoch the parish suffers greatly both from the domestic and agricultural needs and your Consulting Engineer has submitted a scheme which will satisfy the whole needs of the parish.

### (c) Clyro Parish

The parish has one water supply which serves some 37 properties; 19 cottages are served from standpipes and 25 other properties have the water laid on. This supply was laid down some 45 years ago and for many years the maintenance has been carried out by the Clyro Court Estate. The whole scheme had been offered to the Council, and I am happy to report that the transfer took place during the year, and I am looking forward for the relaying of the pipes from the springs to the service reservoir. If this is carried out a greater quantity of water would be available to the village of Clyro, and better supervision can take place, and I see no reason why this source should not be suitable in quantity for the village for the next twenty years.

The other 100 dwellings in the parish have private supplies ranging from open shallow wells to small piped supplies.

### (d) Glasbury Parish

In this parish there are 98 cottages, of which some 53 have water laid on from the Council's mains. During the year shortage of water was experienced but after repairs to the reservoir this defect was put right and the quantity has since been satisfactory.

The other 45 cottages, together with 19 farm dwellings are served by small shallow wells, pumps or small private piped supplies; the water from the shallow wells has to be carried for distances varying from 20 to 400 yards.

The supply laid to the Elementary School during the year 1950 has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

In the case of severe drought the domestic need, in the parish, suffers much more than the agricultural needs.

### (e) Llanbedr-Paincastle Parish

This parish has one small supply serving three farms and six cottages and the other properties have small shallow wells and small piped supplies. In times of drought both domestic and agricultural needs are seriously handicapped. The only suitable source which can serve this parish is Llanbwchllyn Lake and the sooner this scheme can be carried out the better for everybody.

### (f) Llandewifach Parish

This parish has no piped supply and in times of drought the domestic need is greater than the agricultural need, since the adjoining brook is of great service for stock purposes. There are 3 cottages and 15 farms in the parish.

This parish can easily be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake.

### (g) Llandilo-Graban Parish

This parish has three piped supplies, and one of these serving one farm is so defective it could be easily written off. The remaining properties have small shallow wells and are all subject to gross pollution. This parish can be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are 17 cottages and 30 other dwellings in the parish.



(h) Llanstephan Parish

This parish has 28 dwellings and 12 are served by a private supply laid on to each house. The remaining dwellings have similar supplies as mentioned in the other parishes. This parish could be easily supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake.

(i) Llowes Parish

The Council own a small undertaking in this parish which serves the hamlet of Llowes. A new water main was laid through the village during the year and this was also connected to serve the new Housing Site, and this has resulted in a much improved supply of water to the village. The remaining properties in the parish are served by shallow wells and open streams and the majority are subject to gross pollution.

Water Sampling

During the year 35 samples from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were classified as follows:-

|                     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Highly satisfactory | ... | 0.  |
| Satisfactory        | ... | 12. |
| Suspicious          | ... | 2.  |
| Unsatisfactory      | ... | 21. |

The above results emphasize the great need for the Llanbwchllyn Lake water scheme which is still under consideration.

The above results are classified according to the Ministry of Health Report No.17 (1939) which suggests that non-chlorinated piped supplies should be as follows:-

Presumptive coliform count  
per 100 ml. water.

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Class I. Highly satisfactory | Less than 1.     |
| Class II. Satisfactory       | 1 to 2.          |
| Class III. Suspicious        | 3 to 10.         |
| Class IV. Unsatisfactory     | Greater than 10. |

Small rural private supplies from shallow wells should not often show 50 coliform organisms per 100 ml. Persistent failure to obtain this standard should lead to condemnation.

Total number of inspections to water supplies 59.

Sewerage and Drainage

There are no sewers nor sewage disposal works in the district.

Number of visits to drainage work 38.

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection was continued during the year with a weekly collection in the parishes of Llanstephan, Boughrood, Glasbury, Llowes and Clyro. Monthly collections were given in the parishes of Llandilo-Graban, Llanbedr-Paincastle and Bryngwyn. All refuse is tipped by the control method at Clyro.

Sanitary Inspection of the district.

The sanitary inspection of the district was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector and the following details give information for the year:-

|                     |                                    |     |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| <u>Nuisances</u> :- | Number of complaints received      | 23. |
|                     | Number of complaints investigated  | 23. |
|                     | Number of premises inspected       | 48. |
|                     | Number of premises re-visited      | 21. |
|                     | Number of Abatement Notices served | 1.  |

Houses let in Lodgings

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under Byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

### Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

### Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

### Factories

Number of Factories and Workshops in the district 2.  
Number of inspections made 11.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs

Any premises found, as a result of complaint or inspection, to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparation.

No premises were found to be infested during the year.

### Vermineous Premises

Number of premises disinfested 0.

### Rodent Control

One full time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This Operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban and Hay Rural District Councils.

|  | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 |
|--|------|------|------|
| Number of premises inspected during the year     | 109  | 158  | 169  |
| Number of premises found infested                | 23   | 53   | 26   |
| Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator    | 9    | 38   | 15   |
| Estimated number of rats killed during the year  | 160  | 546  | 357  |
| Number of dead rats recovered during the year    | 37   | 155  | 119  |
| Number of agricultural properties inspected      | -    | 55   | 40   |
| Number of agricultural properties found infested | -    | 12   | 10   |
| Number of agricultural properties treated        | -    | 12   | 6    |

### Licensed Premises

It is interesting to note that during the year proposed improvements were submitted by the landlord in respect of one licensed premises. These improvements will much improve the facilities for local residents and tourists.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector 19.

## SECTION 5. HOUSING

During 1950 a survey of some 541 houses was carried out as to the condition of housing, water, sewerage, electricity and transport. Since there has been little or no improvement as to these conditions during 1951, I think it is only right and proper, to keep the survey in mind and it has been reproduced in this report.

### (a) Housing

In spite of the improvement in the supply of materials and labour during the year, much difficulty is still experienced in getting work carried out to many cottages, the principal reason in the control of rents which do not allow the landlords, in many instances, to do such work which they wish to do. I believe it is the opinion of many, who are conversant with the difficulties involved, that some new legislation should be forthcoming to enable such landlords to keep their property up to a decent standard, and to allow them some little return for their capital outlay.

There is one difficulty, which is often overlooked, when work is being carried out at isolated properties. This difficulty arises indirectly from food rationing, which does not permit rural craftsmen to fill their frails with sufficient food to last them from Monday morning till Saturday mid-day, with the result that cost is increased by transport.

Of the properties surveyed, 124 were occupied by agricultural and allied workers, 91 by other workers. 236 were farmhouses let with the holding and 3 were occupied other than with the agricultural holding and 76 houses were not classified, because it was assumed that they were outside the object of the survey.



The condition of the above houses is as follows:-

| Condition  | Occupied by Agricultural Workers |                               |               |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|  | On agricultural holdings         | Engaged on other agric. work. | Other Workers |
| Houses requiring major repairs structural alterations or improvements.                   | 12                               | 11                            | 19            |
| Requiring reconditioning   | 27                               | 24                            | 22            |
| Requiring demolition (i.e. unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense) | 20                               | 6                             | 28            |
| Houses with minor defects  | 7                                | 3                             | 10            |
| Satisfactory in all respects   | 11                               | 3                             | 12            |

| Condition  | Farmhouses       |                    | Vacant Houses |
|--|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|  | Lot with holding | Otherwise occupied |               |
| Houses requiring major repairs structural alterations or improvements.                   | 57               | 0                  | 2             |
| Requiring reconditioning   | 145              | 1                  | 1             |
| Requiring demolition (i.e. unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense) | 20               | 2                  | 8             |
| Houses with minor defects  | 5                | 0                  | 0             |
| Satisfactory in all respects   | 9                | 0                  | 0             |

(b) Water

| No. of houses without a piped water supply. |                |        | No. of houses included in Col. I which are within reasonable distance of a stand-pipe supply. |                |        | Estimated No. of houses in Col. I which can be provided with piped water by schemes which have been submitted to the Ministry of H. & L.G. |                |        |
|---|----------------|--------|---|----------------|--------|--|----------------|--------|
| Farm-houses                                 | Agric. workers | Others | Farm-houses   | Agric. workers | Others | Farm-houses  | Agric. workers | Others |
| 140   | 63             | 37     | 9   | 8              | 16     | 136  | 36             | 35     |

(c) Sewerage

There are no public sewerage schemes in the district. 322 houses have pail closets, 138 houses have earth boxes and 75 houses have cess pools.

The Council are awaiting a report from their Consulting Engineer for the provision of a sewer at Glasbury.

(d) Electricity

225 farmhouses, 88 houses occupied by agricultural workers and 43 houses occupied by other workers were without an electricity supply. During 1950 the South Wales Electricity Board was asked to furnish an electricity supply to Illoes and I am glad to report that some progress was made during 1951, and I sincerely hope that this supply will be available in the near future.

(c) Transport

It was reported that the southern portion of the district was fairly well served with bus services but it could be improved if the bridge at Hay was strengthened to permit the passage of heavier buses, and the agricultural needs would have a much better service when heavier lorries could use this bridge. At present they must make a detour which involves some extra 8 or 9 miles

Housing Act 1949.

This Act received Royal Assent in July 1949. Under the Act you are the authority for administering the Grants and Loans which are permitted thereunder.

Under Section I of the Act limitations under previous Housing Acts are removed by reference to the "working classes" and this means it is the duty of the Housing Authority to consider the housing conditions and needs of all the inhabitants and brings all houses under provisions of Part II of the Housing Act 1936, to include all persons, where displaced, under Part III of the Housing Act 1936, to extend so as to include all persons, the re-housing obligation imposed by Section 137 and the eleventh Schedule of the Housing Act 1936.

Council Housing Programme

There was no appreciable difference in the housing position during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing situation was acute. Four houses were commenced in the village of Illoes during the year. One private enterprise house was completed and occupied during the year. There was one application for an Improvement Grant under the Housing Act 1949, this was approved and the work completed.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk On 1st. October 1949 the Milk & Dairies Act 1944 came into operation and under this Act the licensing of producers and the supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. The Council is now left only with the licensing and control of distributors.

Number of Milk Dealers registered in the district . 2.

Number of milk samples taken 12.

Number of samples satisfactory 7.

Number of samples unsatisfactory 5.

Meat There is no slaughterhouse in the district and all meat is supplied from the Ministry's slaughterhouse at Brecon. 51 lbs. of beef were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Other foods

There were no other foods condemned during the year.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including bakehouses)

There are no bakehouses in the district, but 12 visits were made to other premises.

Ice-cream Premises

There are 2 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream in the district, but no premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Number of inspections of ice-cream premises 6.

### Fried Fish Shops

There are no fried fish shops in the district.

### Shops Act 1934.

Number of inspections

12.

## SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were no cases of measles or other infectious disease notified during the year.

### Veneral Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital at Hereford for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

### Tuberculosis

There were no cases of tuberculosis during the year.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections. There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. WILSON.

Medical Officer of Health.



